

Books in History & Biography



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Autobiography & Biography

Archibald MacLeish: Reflections

Edited by Bernard A. Drabeck and Helen E. Ellis

"This enchanting book preserves the voice of one of the distinguished and versatile Americans of the century in a fascinating variety of moods and memories—poet, dramatist, public servant, teacher, journalist, bon vivant, patriot."

—Arthur Schlesinger, Jr.

"During the last five years of his life MacLeish participated in this series of interviews tracing his career as poet, Librarian of Congress, statesman, and man of letters. He speaks candidly of his student years, his 'expatriate period' in Paris, and his subsequent writing and teaching. The editors/interviewers have wisely asked only brief, perceptive questions, leaving the spotlight on the poet. His language is colloquial, and the range of his writing, experience, and acquaintances should prove fascinating to readers of 20th-century poetry, literature, and social history."

—*Library Journal*

Drabeck and Ellis both teach English at Greenfield Community College, where they established the Archibald MacLeish Collection for scholarship and related research.

312 pp., illustrations, cloth \$19.95 ISBN 511-7, LC 85-28912 1986

Biography as High Adventure: Life-Writers Speak on Their Art

Edited by Stephen B. Oates

How do biographers view the challenges of their work? How does one render the true contours of another's experience in a way that is both dramatic and effective? This book brings together the reflections of ten highly accomplished literary artists who draw on their own experiences to discuss the nature, excitement, and hazards of writing biography. These include Catherine Drinker Bowen, Leon Edel, Justin Kaplan, Paul Murray Kendall, Paul Mariani, André Maurois, Stephen B. Oates, Mark Schorer, Barbara W. Tuchman, and Frank E. Vandiver.

Unlike those who specialize in critical studies or scholarly chronicles, these writers are all known for their mastery of biography as a narrative art form. Naturally, given the diversity of the genre, they don't agree on every point. For example, there is no consensus on how much of the subject's "inner life" can be known. Whereas Edel looks for "the figure under the carpet"—that is, the psychological evidence that reveals the subject's hidden "personal myth"—others discuss how difficult it can be to get inside the subject. As Kaplan puts it, biography sometimes seems to be "only a plausible, inevitably idiosyncratic surmise and reconstruction, severely limited by historical materials that are loaded with duplications and evasions."

The contributors also differ about their proper relationship with their subject. Whereas Maurois and Tuchman call for detachment, most of the others urge compassion, empathy, even love. Several of the biographers divide over a particularly

provocative question: How much, if any, of the subject's "darker side" should be exposed? Must the reader know about this side in order to understand and appreciate the subject's life?

With their diverse points of view, personal anecdotes, and insights, these essays provide a revealing portrait of biography as an art form and a fascinating commentary on the work of ten eminent biographers.

"Oates has gathered here some of the best things ever said on a much misunderstood literary form. Reading through his collection, one comes to a generous understanding of the nature of biographical art as well as to a sense of its most exciting possibilities."—Frederick Turner, author of *Rediscovering America: John Muir in His Time and Ours*

Oates is Paul Murray Kendall Professor of Biography at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. His many books include biographies of Nat Turner, John Brown, Abraham Lincoln, and Martin Luther King, Jr.

160 pp., cloth \$20.00(sd), paper \$8.95 ISBN 513-3(cloth), 514-1(paper)
LC 85-20847 1986



States of Perfect Freedom: Autobiography and American Political Thought

Philip Abbott

Echoing Alexis de Tocqueville, many subsequent writers have condemned American political thought for its shallowness, conformity to liberalism, atomism, and formalism. In *States of Perfect Freedom*, Philip Abbott argues that this perspective ignores the unique tradition of American political discourse, which insists that the personal is political and that individual transcendence is the key to reform or radical change. This "sermonic" tradition, he contends, functions as a submerged theoretical base of American political thought and is best revealed in autobiography, where individuals attempt to justify their political positions by explaining their own personal conversions.

Abbott explores his thesis by examining eleven American autobiographers in the context of five concepts: hustling, redeeming, judging, remembering, and reforming. Identifying the "hustler" as an American political type, he finds a disturbing interpretation of entrepreneurship in American culture in the personae assumed by Benjamin Franklin, Malcolm X, and Abbie Hoffman. Other writers, such as Henry Adams, Lincoln Steffens, and Richard Wright, are obsessed with "remembering," struggling to recapture an idyllic pastoral childhood in an increasingly cold, spiritless America. Henry David Thoreau, a "redeemer," goes off to find Nature, nearly losing his own identity in the process. Whittaker Chambers and Lillian Hellman resort to "judging" the world in terms of their own personal struggles with good and evil. Charlotte Perkins Gilman and Jane Addams, as "reformers," assume different identities, Gilman trying to erase her memory of home and the very concept of domesticity and Addams providing refuge for homeless women.

Abbott's reflections on these autobiographers reveal a fragile, even tragic, vision of individualism and establish the centrality of the conversion experience in American political thought as the equivalent to social revolution.

"A lively, interesting book . . . that draws upon democratic theory and practice to critique the excesses of a particular sort of American individualism, a preoccupation with self that turns politics into a mirror of the self, on the one hand and, on the other, highlights the overly bureaucratized and managerial forms of the dominant liberalism."—Jean Bethke Elshtain, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Abbott is professor of political science at Wayne State University and author of *Furious Fancies: American Political Thought in the Post-Liberal Era* and *The Family on Trial: Special Relationships in Modern Political Thought*.

176 pp., cloth \$20.00(sd) ISBN 542-7, LC 86-16248 February 1987

To Purge This Land with Blood: A Biography of John Brown

Second Edition

Stephen B. Oates

One hundred and twenty-five years after his epochal Harpers Ferry raid to free the slaves, John Brown remains one of the most controversial figures in American history. With rare exceptions, the literature on him has veered between the polarities of seeing him as a sacrificing abolitionist hero or as a horse thief, murderer, and psychopath. In 1970, the highly praised historian and biographer Stephen B. Oates produced what has come to be recognized as the definitive biography of Brown, a balanced assessment that captures the man in all his complexity. *To Purge This Land with Blood* is now back in print in an updated edition with a new prologue by the author.

Among the many fine reviews of the first edition are: Oates "has given us the most objective and absorbing biography of John Brown ever written. Its title captures perfectly Brown's own conception of his role in the antislavery crusade. Oates describes with subtlety and detail John Brown's early career, his struggles with poverty, illness and death, the desperate straits the man was put to in support of his large family of twenty children. He tells us that Brown came to the armed phase of his abolitionist career at the end of many business ventures and as many failures, un-

successful speculations, lawsuits, and bankruptcies, even misappropriation of funds.”—Willie Lee Rose, *New York Review of Books*

“John Brown’s life was filled with drama, and Oates tells his story in a manner so engrossing that the book reads like a novel, despite the fact that it is extensively documented and researched.”—Eric Foner, *New York Times Book Review*

448 pp., illustrations, cloth \$27.50(sd), paper \$13.95

ISBN 457-9(cloth), 458-7(paper), LC 84-2635 1984, second edition

Lydia Maria Child: Selected Letters, 1817–1880

Edited by Milton Meltzer and Patricia G. Holland

Francine Krasno, Associate Editor

Born in Medford, Massachusetts, Lydia Maria Child (1802–1880) was one of the most influential authors and reformers of her day. She wrote extensively on social and cultural issues, was active in the antislavery movement, and strongly supported women’s equality. Her prodigious literary output included historical and philosophical works, novels, children’s literature, humanitarian tracts, and thousands of letters.

“Child . . . knew some of the most interesting Americans of the 19th century, including William Lloyd Garrison and Lucy Stone; her letters contain her observations on the Alcotts and the Emersons as well as her first-hand accounts of such extraordinary events as the 1861 annual meeting of the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society. . . . Carefully footnoted and edited, scholarly and delightfully readable, the book is a fine contribution to our understanding of this crucial period in U.S. history.”—*Library Journal*

“This is a beautifully executed book, giving many scholars access to the correspondence of an influential American woman. It can be recommended to students of nineteenth-century reform movements, women’s history, and social-intellectual history.”—Donna M. DeBlasio, *Civil War History*

608 pp., cloth \$35.00(sd) ISBN 332-7, LC 82-8464 1982

Mother of the Blues: A Study of Ma Rainey

Sandra R. Lieb

“The definitive book about a blues pioneer.”—Studs Terkel

“Gertrude ‘Ma’ Rainey sang the blues at the start of this century when jazz was turning into a distinctive art form. She was the first singer who can be described as a jazz performer rather than a folk, popular, or religious singer. Lieb’s book is the first full-scale treatment of Ma Rainey’s life and music, and it is a valuable addition to jazz literature. The biographical first chapter contains substantially more information than has generally been available in the past. . . . The bulk of the book is concerned with a textual analysis of Rainey’s songs and here Lieb has done a scholarly job and has captured the primary significance of Rainey as a major link between the blues

as folk music and the blues as jazz music. . . . Lieb brings social and cultural background to increase the understanding and perspective of the Rainey story. Her clear and direct style will make the book accessible to many, and she provides a wealth of material for continued study and exploration in the discography and appendixes as well as the chapter notes. The book belongs in any library concerned with jazz, American arts, and black history.”—*Choice*

“The book is a must for any reader with a serious interest in the blues, especially its literary side. A convincing, well-written study.”—Butch Thompson,
The Mississippi Rag

Mother of the Blues has received new attention following the Broadway production of August Wilson’s *Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom*, which was cited by the New York Drama Critics Circle as the best new play of the 1984–85 season.

256 pp., illustrations, discography, cloth \$20.00(sd), paper \$11.95
ISBN 334-3(cloth), 394-7(paper), LC 81-1168 1981



Thoreau's Seasons

Richard Lebeaux

"The chapter on Emerson and Thoreau is by far the best I've ever read on that difficult subject. The section on Thoreau's sexuality is superb. It has given me all sorts of insights into Thoreau. The chapter on life at Walden is another excellent one. Altogether it is a very important book."—Walter Harding, Secretary,
The Thoreau Society

"This superb study, though self-contained, continues and completes the psycho-biography of Henry David Thoreau undertaken in *Young Man Thoreau*. It traces his life and work from 1845, when he began his sojourn at Walden Pond . . . to his death in 1862. Using a wide range of Thoreau's writing—letters, lectures, essays, poems, books, and particularly the magnificent *Journal*—Lebeaux charts the personal and artistic development of this fascinating and essential American writer. *Thoreau's Seasons* relies extensively on, and profits significantly from, Eriksonian psychology; but its success stems principally from its immersion of the reader in the workings of Thoreau's mind as revealed in his writings, its close and often brilliant readings that illuminate his often agonizing search for identity and fulfillment, and its bold and entirely convincing speculations and conclusions about the shaping of his inner life. . . . Lebeaux shows clearly that the seasons of nature provided Thoreau with an elaborate analogy by which to raise, clarify, and finally resolve the issues of his life. Any reader in search of Thoreau, the man and writer, will find *Thoreau's Seasons*, and also *Young Man Thoreau*, simply indispensable."—*Choice*

Lebeaux is associate professor of American thought and language at Michigan State University.

424 pp., cloth \$28.50(sd) ISBN 401-3, LC 83-17982 1984

That Time of Year: A Chronicle of Life in a Nursing Home

Joyce Horner

Introduction by Robert Tucker

"This work provides a glimpse into the soul of a sensitive, literate woman. Horner, a novelist and poet, formerly Professor of English at Mount Holyoke College, entered a nursing home [in New England] because of crippling arthritis. She kept a daily journal over a period of three years, recording her feelings and experiences at the nursing home; small things like favorite music on the radio brought her pleasure. Included are her observations of the patients, the staff, and the daily routine. Despite increasing physical disability and a recognition of death's approach, her resilience of spirit shines forth like a beacon in the night, and she is an example of a person who triumphs over adversity. The quality of her writing is high. Recommended."

—*Library Journal*

"This is indirect teaching of the highest order: a sharing of human experience. If, in reading this book, nurses gain some insight into what went on in the heart and mind of one 'elder' (she was in her early 70s), if they are moved by this testimony of courage in the presence of adversity, if they are sensitized to the capacity of the human

spirit to sustain and renew itself, then I believe that they are bound to give more perceptive and thoughtful care. If this is indeed so, then Joyce Horner will have bequeathed us a rich and lasting legacy.”—Edith P. Lewis, *Geriatric Nursing*

224 pp., paper \$9.95 ISBN 367-x, LC 81-23128 1982

Introducing a new series

Commonwealth Classics in Biography

Stephen B. Oates and Paul Mariani, General Editors

Each book in this series will make available a classic work of biography, reprinted in its entirety and including a new introduction.

Disturber of the Peace: The Life of H. L. Mencken

Second Edition

William Manchester

“Manchester’s book is written with verve, intellectual sophistication, and a prickly wit worthy of its eminent subject. . . . *Disturber of the Peace* performs a considerable service for American intellectual history. It is, besides, a first-class piece of literate entertainment.”—*The New Yorker*

Originally published in 1951, this fine biography of H. L. Mencken tells of how, for better or worse, he rose to his unique position as comic genius and preeminent critic of American culture. For this edition, William Manchester has written a new introduction and a final chapter, “My Old Man,” which recounts in moving terms his own experiences as a friend and protégé of Mencken in his later years.

In *Disturber of the Peace* one finds the facts of the stormy Mencken legend: his hectic and hilarious editorship with George Jean Nathan of *The Smart Set*, the memorable saga of *The American Mercury*, the famous Scopes “monkey trial” in Tennessee, and Mencken’s own trial in Boston when *The American Mercury* was banned. Here is the story of a man whose massive power of invective inspired and infuriated his contemporaries, and whose popularity and unpopularity mounted with the frenzied pace of the 1920s. Mencken sounded a loud, jarring note to a world governed by conformity, and never hesitated to express his contempt for every kind of hypocrite, fake, and narrow-minded censor. Mencken had a human side, which Manchester details—not just his rambunctious wit and pungent criticism, but also his courtesy and hospitality, the warmth of his friendships, his support of many struggling writers, and his personal foibles and weaknesses. What emerges from this highly readable biography is a compelling portrait of an extraordinary man.

“A carefully done, brilliantly written biography, one that is certain to be among the finest produced . . . a warm and honest study.”—*Philadelphia Inquirer*

“Excellent . . . a superb job.”—*New York Post*

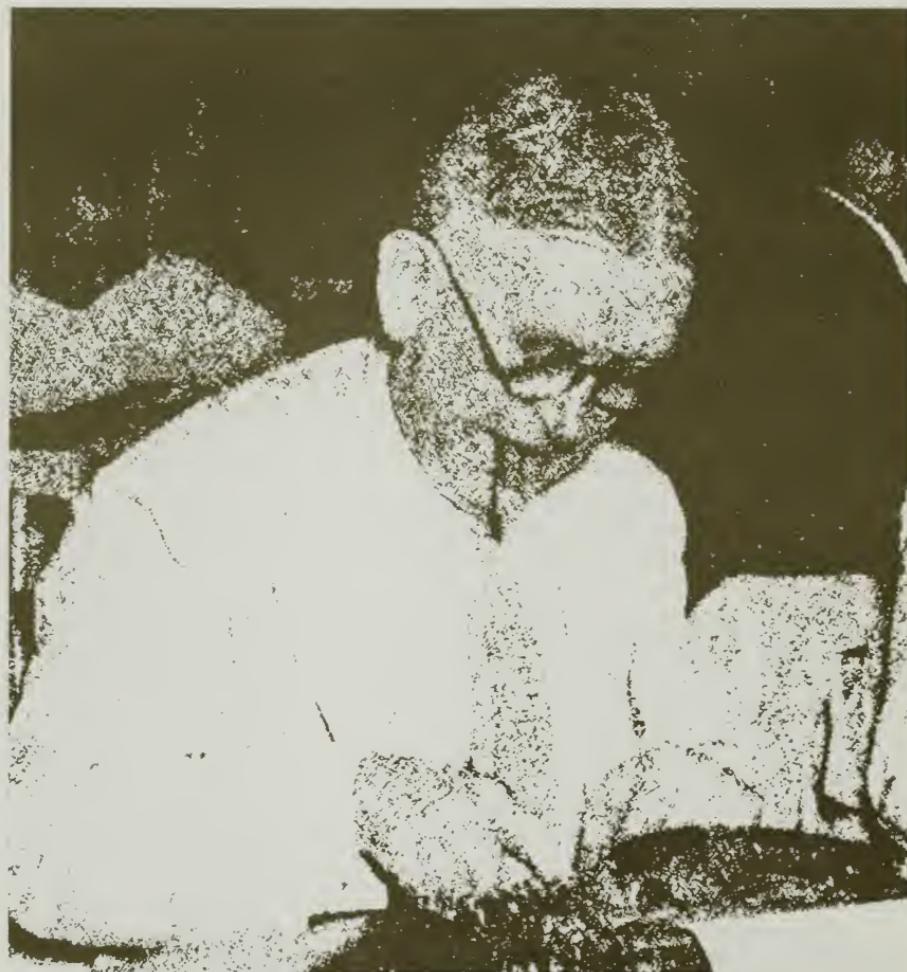
"Brilliant. . . . the jovial disturber of the peace rollicks again in the pages of this fascinating biography."—*Milwaukee Journal*

"Worthy of the man and his influence on American letters."
—*New York Herald Tribune*

Distinguished author of more than a dozen books, Manchester is adjunct professor of history at Wesleyan University.

360 pp., illustrations, cloth \$25.00(sd), paper \$8.95

ISBN 543-5(cloth), 544-3(paper), LC 86-6999 1986 USC



American History

Postmortem: New Evidence in the Case of Sacco and Vanzetti

William Young and David E. Kaiser

"*Postmortem* carries conviction not only because of the cogency of its reasoning and the thoroughness of its research, but because of its plain and economical style. . . . It is not possible, in a short review, to do justice to all the merits and all the information packed into this short book. At least it may be said that in future it will be required reading for anyone intending to comment on the case."—Hugh Brogan, (London) *Times Literary Supplement*

"The fresh evidence here may mute the old controversy, for 'the prosecution left a trail' of doctored eyewitness accounts, altered testimony, and false ballistics reports. That trail appears to exonerate the victims while convicting the executioners."

—Richard J. Margolis, *New York Times Book Review*

"This concise, clearly written, and cogently argued book may bring to a close six decades of controversy. . . . *Postmortem* is cool and unemotional. It sets forth but does not dwell upon the political atmosphere surrounding the case. On one level, it can be read like a detective story or as an intellectual puzzle. On another, it is a psychological drama involving a prejudiced judge, a crafty district attorney, a defense lawyer who overplayed his hand, and slovenly policemen who cut corners when the facts did not fit their presuppositions."—William V. Shannon,

Washington Post Book World

The late William Young researched the case for many years before his death. David Kaiser is associate professor of history at Carnegie-Mellon University.

208 pp., illustrations, cloth \$20.00(sd), paper \$9.95

ISBN 478-1(cloth), 479-x(paper), LC 84-24483 1985

The Politics of Fear: Joseph R. McCarthy and the Senate

Revised edition

Robert Griffith

Winner of the Organization of American Historians' Frederick Jackson Turner Award

Originally published in 1970 and now a classic in its field, *The Politics of Fear* traces the rise and fall of one of America's most notorious political demagogues. Robert Griffith concludes that McCarthy's enormous power owed less to the force of the senator's unique personality than to the issues and symbols with which he identified and that McCarthy was the product, not the progenitor, of the postwar politics of anticommunism. For this revised edition, the author has provided a new introduction covering the recent literature on McCarthyism and the changing views on the topic.

The Politics of Fear was widely praised when first published: "A well written, impressively researched study of the McCarthy phenomenon"—*Journal of American History*. "A highly valuable addition to our knowledge of power politics and the

'anti-communist impulse' in the 1950s"—*American Historical Review*. "A splendid account"—*New York Times Book Review*. "Should become the standard work on McCarthyism . . . a definitive account of McCarthy's entire career"—*Choice*. "A valuable and relevant book"—*Publishers Weekly*.

In the years following its publication, scholars have continued to recognize its importance: A "brilliant analysis of McCarthyism as a political phenomenon"—William H. Chafe and Harvard Sitkoff. One of "the two best books on McCarthyism"—Robert A. Divine. "An excellent analysis of McCarthy as a politician"—Paul R. Conkin and David Burner. "No historian can write authoritatively on McCarthy, the anti-Communist complex, or partisan politics in the early 1950s without consulting this book"—Michael O'Brien.

Griffith is professor of history and department chair at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. His edited works include *The Specter: Original Essays on McCarthyism and the Cold War* and *Ike's Letters to A Friend: 1941–1958*.

372 pp., cloth \$25.00(sd), paper \$10.95 ISBN 554-0(cloth), 555-9(paper)
April 1987

Against Racism: Unpublished Essays, Papers, Addresses, 1887–1961

W.E.B. Du Bois

Edited by Herbert Aptheker

Scholar, teacher, author, editor, reformer, and civil-rights leader, W.E.B. Du Bois (1868–1963) was one of the most prominent black Americans of his time and one of the earliest proponents of full equality for people of his race. He was a founder and leader of the Niagara Movement (a black militant coalition), the NAACP, and the Pan-African Movement; a participant in the 1920s Harlem Renaissance; a leader of the 1950s Ban the Bomb movement; an advocate of anticolonialism, anti-imperialism, unionism, and women's liberation; a proponent of independent political activity for black Americans; and for over half a century, an adherent of socialism.

"As significant as Aptheker's previous volumes have been, perhaps his greatest contribution is his most recent volume, *Against Racism*. . . . A brief sketch of this collection cannot do full justice to its importance to the field of Afro-American history: *Against Racism* is as critical in presenting the fabric of Du Bois's thought as *The Souls of Black Folk* or *Dusk of Dawn*. Henceforth all studies of Du Bois will be affected by these major insights presented in *Against Racism*."—Manning Marable, *Black Scholar*

"Beginning with writings as a student at Fisk, Harvard, and in Berlin, and proceeding through the remainder of Du Bois's life, Aptheker has culled illuminating tidbits and major pieces, such as a 30,000-word essay on blacks during the New Deal. A fascinating view inside one of the foremost 20th-century intellectuals; essential for collections on modern America."—*Library Journal*

"This work adds greatly to our knowledge of the range and depth of Du Bois's thought. Indeed, one senses as seldom before the foundation of his thought on a number of issues vital to his people and to his times. The sections on art and civilization contain some of the finest writing of one who was a leading prose stylist of

his time. This previously unpublished material . . . forms a book comparable in quality to *The Souls of Black Folk*. As such, it will be one of the most important works published in America in the last half of this century."—Sterling Stuckey, Northwestern University

A forty-volume series of Du Bois's published writings, edited by Herbert Aptheker, has recently been published by Kraus International Publications.

304 pp., illustrations, cloth \$25.00(sd) ISBN 134-0, LC 84-16173 1985



Woman's Legacy: Essays on Race, Sex, and Class in American History

Bettina Aptheker

"A book of seven essays, only one of which is identified as having been published before. This reviewer agrees with the author's self-assessment of her work as 'carefully researched and historically competent.' Written from an avowedly Marxist and feminist point of view, 'it is also partisan, activist . . . inherently autobiographical' (p. 7), and fascinating to read. The subject matter ranges from women's role in abolitionism and in the antilynching crusade, through the woman's rights and suffrage movements, to a devastating critique of aspects of Daniel P. Moynihan's *The Negro Family: The Case of National Action* (1965). In between are chapters on black women in the professions and on both black and white women in domestic service. Each chapter is introduced by a personal statement of the author. . . . Her autobiographical remarks reveal a young woman socially aware from an early age and, incidentally, they provide intriguing glimpses of Herbert Aptheker, W.E.B. Du Bois, and Angela Davis. Full notes and adequate index. A very refreshing book."—*Choice*

"The principal contribution of this passionate book is its insistence on the centrality of the black woman's experience. It is a book of naming: reiterating the complex layers of racial and sexual oppression, pointing to the intersection of

struggles for racial and sexual equality, listing prominent but forgotten black female leaders. . . . *Woman's Legacy* is a call to action and a call to scholarship. Aptheker's honesty about her own assumptions and commitments provides a model of committed scholarship and encourages argument and debate."—Sara M. Evans,
American Historical Review

Aptheker is coordinator of Women's Studies at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and author or editor of several books, including *If They Come in the Morning: Voices of Resistance*.

192 pp., paper \$9.50(sd) ISBN 365-3, LC 81-23137 1982



Abraham Lincoln and the American Political Tradition

Edited by John L. Thomas

To what extent was Abraham Lincoln shaped by the political culture he inherited? How did he manage, in turn, to redirect the politics of his era and develop a new doctrine of liberal nationalism? The essays in this volume address these and related questions from a variety of perspectives, ranging from a subtle analysis of Lincoln's rhetorical skills to a statistical survey of those who elected him.

Robert Wiebe examines the social forces at work in Jacksonian America and shows how easily the young Lincoln fit into the predominantly male realm of politics. But Wiebe also describes Lincoln's peculiarly intense feelings of political comradeship—the source of the great compassion which contemporaries of both sexes recognized and which subsequently became the stuff of legend. Don Fehrenbacher analyzes Lincoln's mastery of the written and spoken word and shows how the sheer power of his language became a formidable political tool. William E. Gienapp's essay turns to the voters who elected Lincoln in 1860. Gienapp's analysis of voting patterns raises crucial questions about Lincoln's support and the origins of the Republican Party.

In the next two essays, Stephen B. Oates and Michael F. Holt offer dramatically different views of Lincoln's contribution to the American political tradition. Whereas Oates presents the highly principled Lincoln as a supremely successful leader of his party, Holt emphasizes the sharp conflicts between president and Republican congressmen and sees Lincoln as a canny politician who sought to strike a balance between principles and expediency. In the final essay, James M. McPherson concludes that the Civil War was, in effect, a second American Revolution, in which Lincoln and his generation attempted to resolve the fundamental contradictions bequeathed to them by the first American Revolution. In this context, Lincoln emerges as a pragmatic revolutionary driven by the exigencies of war to push for emancipation as the only way to save the Union.

As John L. Thomas notes, Lincoln appears in these essays in several guises, "as the ambitious member of a political fraternity; a master of political discourse; an able tactician and party leader; an embattled executive; and a committed if conservative revolutionary. Yet in all of these postures he may be seen collecting the raw materials afforded by an emergent national culture and forging from them his own vision of liberty and union."

Thomas is George L. Littlefield Professor of History at Brown University.

176 pp., cloth \$20.00(sd) ISBN 512-5, LC 85-20973 1986

Our Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln, John Brown, and the Civil War Era

Stephen B. Oates

"These ten stimulating essays by the author of a distinguished biographical trilogy embracing Nat Turner, John Brown, and Abraham Lincoln concisely and perceptively illuminate aspects of the 'apocalyptic' era of slavery and the Civil War, and penetrate the flaws of other biographers, novelists, and historians. . . . readable, enjoyable, and meaningful. Highly recommended."—*Choice*

"*Our Fiery Trial* is a small book that packs a big wallop. It is must reading for all students of mid-nineteenth-century American society and politics. . . . This collection contains ten essays: one on William Styron's Nat Turner; three on John Brown (including two analyzing the work of Brown's previous interpreters); three on Lincoln (including a favorable but not uncritical appreciation of Sandburg's work); one on the 'enigma' of Stephen A. Douglas; another on the 'role of historical myth,' that is, the abuse of history by such figures as John Wayne, Paul Harvey, and Ronald Reagan; and a final essay containing Oates's reflections on the art of history in general and biography in particular . . . a remarkable achievement."—Richard O. Curry, *American Historical Review*

160 pp., paper \$7.95 (sd) ISBN 397-1, LC 78-16286 1979

In Resistance: Studies in African, Caribbean, and Afro-American History

Edited by Gary Y. Okihiro

In 1943, Herbert Aptheker published a pioneering study entitled *American Negro Slave Revolts* in which he argued that resistance, not acquiescence, was at the core of the American slave experience. Blacks never accepted slavery, Aptheker asserted, and never ceased to struggle against it, whether through outright insurrection or with more subtle forms of resistance. Using Aptheker's work as a point of departure, the essays in this volume extend his analysis to other cultures and eras. Scholars of African, Caribbean, and Afro-American history elaborate on the theme of resistance against both slavery and colonialism and discuss such factors as class, rural protest, flight, women's roles and strategies, and ideology. What emerges is an enlightening comparative perspective on the black experience as revealed through the dialectic of oppression and resistance.

"It has been a good five or six years since I have read through a set of essays with such pleasure. Not only do individual articles stand out but also the essays build off of one another. Thus the collection is worth more than the sum of the individual essays. Scholars in African, Afro-American, and Caribbean studies will find the articles in their specialties informative and those outside of their field enlightening. In the process of reading the articles together, an understanding of resistance emerges that can inform studies on other parts of the globe and in other eras."—E. Frances White, MacArthur Professor, Hampshire College

Gary Y. Okihiro is director of the Ethnic Studies Program and associate professor of history at the University of Santa Clara.

240 pp., cloth \$30.00(sd), paper \$12.95(sd) ISBN 519-2(cloth), 520-6(paper)
LC 85-28874 1986 OBEC

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Massachusetts in the Gilded Age: Selected Essays

Edited by Jack Tager and John W. Ifkovic

Following the Civil War, Massachusetts changed from a rural, agricultural society to one based on urban and industrial forms of organization. Although historians have devoted considerable attention to the colonial history of the state, they have neglected the issues of ethnicity, municipal politics, and social welfare problems in the crowded urban centers of post-Civil War Massachusetts. Using case studies, the essays in this anthology discuss voting patterns, factory towns and labor conflicts, social mobility, Irish-Catholic assimilation, and social reform. In addition to several articles on Boston are those on French Canadians in the Holyoke liquor industry, immigrant labor in New Bedford, and the athletic program of Harvard University.

"The volume succeeds, I believe, in delineating the central historical movements of the Gilded Age in Massachusetts. The collective thrust of the essays indicates that Massachusetts developed an organized response to industrial change that prefigured the Progressive movement. . . . This handsomely produced book provides both an overview of the Gilded Age useful for designing college courses and examples of traditional and new social history on one of the nation's most historically important industrial communities."—*Journal of American History*

Jack Tager is professor of history at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and author of *The Intellectual as Urban Reformer: Brand Whitlock and the Progressive Movement*. John W. Ifkovic is assistant professor of history at Westfield State College. Other contributors are Dale Baum, Peter Haebler, Thomas A. McMullin, Alexander Keyssar, Ronald A. Smith, Ivan D. Steen, Francis R. Walsh, and Marilyn Thornton Williams.

272 pp., cloth \$22.50(sd), paper \$9.95
ISBN 480-3(cloth), 481-1(paper), LC 84-23970 1985



The Model Company Town: Urban Design through Private Enterprise in Nineteenth-Century New England

John S. Garner

"The phrase 'company town' evokes images of dark factories belching smoke as they squat malevolently amid their employees' hovels, or of regimented, paternalistic, capitalist fiefdoms where every vestige of worker individuality has been ruthlessly stamped out. In this study of several 19th-century New England company towns, John S. Garner effectively challenges those stereotypes. . . . Garner shows that company towns were often a far superior alternative to typical worker housing in big-city slums and devotes the second half of his study to an examination of the history of Hopedale, Mass., which exemplifies the best features of such towns. Amply illustrated, *The Model Company Town* documents how Hopedale met the needs of both labor and management. The book is a valuable contribution to the history of architecture and design in America."—Ronald Bailey, *New York Times Book Review*

"Rewarding reading for architects, geographers, historians, sociologists, urban planners, undergraduates, and general readers."—*Choice*

304 pp., illustrated, cloth \$27.50(sd) ISBN 442-0, LC 84-8636 1984

Shays' Rebellion: The Making of an Agrarian Insurrection

David P. Szatmary

"This spare and elegant volume deserves to sweep the historical profession's prizes in regional studies, rural history, and early American life. . . . The text moves gracefully between textured descriptions of New England life and wise reflections on larger issues, including the impact of the Shaysites on the drafting of the United States Constitution."—David Roediger and Paul Shannon, *In These Times*

"The author understands late eighteenth-century Massachusetts and judiciously integrates a wide variety of social, economic, and political evidence into his clear and concise analysis. *Shays' Rebellion* . . . makes a significant contribution to our understanding of the Revolutionary era in New England. It deserves a wide readership."—Richard D. Brown, *New England Quarterly*

Szatmary is one of three scholarly advisers for a film on Shays' Rebellion, produced by Calliope Film Resources, Inc. and released in 1986, the bicentennial year of the rebellion.

208 pp., paper \$9.95(sd) ISBN 419-6, LC 79-22522 1980

Witchcraft, Magic, and Religion in Seventeenth-Century Massachusetts

Richard Weisman

Witchcraft, Magic, and Religion in Seventeenth-Century Massachusetts received an honorable mention in the annual book award competition of the Society of Colonial Wars.

"In the Massachusetts Bay Colony, the devil was 'a codefendant in virtually all criminal indictments' and witches were his agents. But Richard Weisman, a sociologist at York University in Toronto, argues that the people accused of being witches didn't start the trouble. Rather, they were caught up in a conflict generated by angry villagers, insecure clergymen, and litigious magistrates, whose interests were served by persecuting witches. . . . In this intriguing book, Mr. Weisman succeeds in explaining the complex interaction of religion, government, and popular feeling that led to the execution of 20 people at Salem."—Margaret Peters, *New York Times Book Review*

"An important book that succeeds in placing Massachusetts witchlore within the contexts both of the region's general history and of recent scholarship on European witchcraft."—Richard P. Gildrie, *Journal of American History*

"Promises to change the terms of the debate about the Salem witch trials."
—Bernard Rosenthal, *New England Quarterly*

288 pp., paper \$9.95(sd) ISBN 494-3, LC 83-15542 1983

Sex in Middlesex: Popular Mores in a Massachusetts County, 1649–1699

Roger Thompson

Foreword by David D. Hall

This analysis of sexual misdemeanors, family life, and community relations as revealed in the unpublished Middlesex County court records provides vivid insight into the norms, values, and aspirations of New England puritans. Based on the testimony of some 500 witnesses in nearly 200 cases, Roger Thompson's study presents a number of surprising findings that challenge our inherited image of puritans as a severe and repressive people.

Thompson discovers that in Middlesex County a strong adolescent culture challenged adult values; romantic love played an important role in both adult and adolescent relationships; parents had genuine love for children and were outraged by cruelty against them; despite the teachings of the clergy, males found it difficult to impose patriarchialism; although most people were intensely God-fearing, puritans had a skeptical sense of humor; elite families had their share of deviants; defamation was a means of exerting communal control over wrongdoers; and the decline in moral standards was not as great as has been depicted.

"The substance of *Sex in Middlesex* is the speech of ordinary people. This is speech that informs us richly about popular religion ('God sees in the dark') and youth culture, about sex and love, about family and community. Tangible, immediate, and compelling, the speech of these people resists any simple black or white interpretation. It is the great strength of Roger Thompson's narrative that he has responded so imaginatively to the nuances of everyday life, and in doing so has enriched the social history of early New England."—David D. Hall, Boston University, from the Foreword

"This book will appeal to a wide audience. Family historians and sociologists of the family will find it useful, as will colonial cultural and social historians. As a bonus, it is just the sort of book one could use in undergraduate classes."—Toby Ditz, Johns Hopkins University

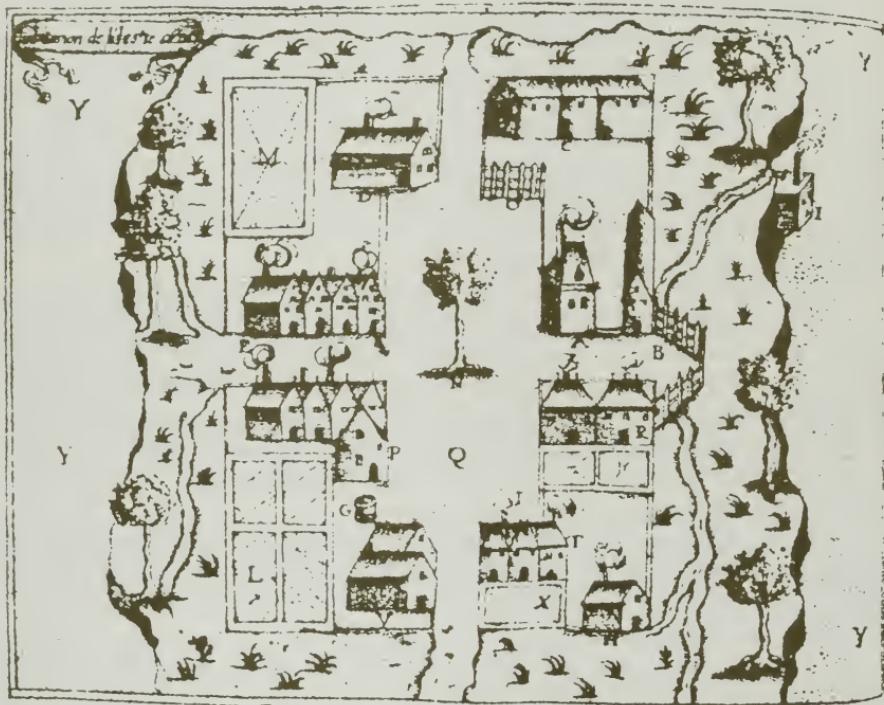
Thompson is a University Reader in the School of English and American Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich, England.

272 pp., cloth \$30.00(sd) ISBN 516-8, LC 85-24630 1986



Written by Ann Leighton, a noted authority on historic gardens, this handsome and scholarly three-volume series explores American gardens and gardening of the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries. The first two books, originally issued in hardback in 1970 and 1976, are considered classics in the field. They are now available in paperback for the first time. All three volumes are abundantly illustrated and each contains an extensive appendix that lists and describes all the plants commonly cultivated in gardens of the period.

The late Ann Leighton was a landscape architect and garden consultant who lived for many years in Ipswich, Massachusetts.



Early American Gardens: "For Meate or Medicine"

"The gardens of the 17th century and the stalwart settlers who planted them are vividly recreated as one delves into the carefully researched pages of this scholarly volume. . . . To be savored in small servings, pondered and reread, this is a book for history buffs as well as inquisitive gardeners, and is one reference work not likely to gather dust on the shelf."—Jean Kilborn, *Boston Globe*

"The sense of continuity is a haunting quality of Ann Leighton's delightful book of the early gardens in seventeenth-century New England. Before our eyes, she not only makes the gardens grow again 'for meate or medicine' but brings to vivid life the gardeners as well. . . . In 10 chapters with some 70 prints for illustration, Miss Leighton has told a story at once fascinating and informative, the result of years

of research and years of practical gardening to re-create for herself these wonderful gardens.”—Helen Bevington, *New York Times Book Review*

“What a perfectly enchanting book! Why has no one ever had the wit and imagination to combine a taste for gardening and seventeenth-century New England history until now? Because, I suspect, few people read as widely, garden as enthusiastically, or write as engagingly.”—Walter Muir Whitehill

442 pp., 80 illustrations, paper \$14.95 ISBN 530-3, LC 86-6980 1986

American Gardens in the Eighteenth Century: “For Use or for Delight”

“A most entertaining account of the plants and gardens of a fascinating era, based on the letters, journals, invoices, and books of men and women (among them George Washington, Manasseh Cutler, and Jane Colden) who were interested in the discovering, the growing, and the exchanging of plants of the New and Old World. Particularly useful are the alphabetical listing of the plants mentioned in the text and the extensive bibliography which includes, after each title, the name of the library, either in this country or abroad, where each item may be found. . . . Highly recommended.”—*Library Journal*

“With a marvelous sense of humor and an eye for the oddity, Leighton has achieved the next to impossible—a book that will appeal to anyone with a scholarly interest in gardening, botany, or history.”—*Publishers Weekly*

“A formidable piece of work.”—*Yankee*

“Surely the definitive book on the subject, satisfying both the scholar and the gardener, and the discriminating reader who is neither.”—*Choice*

514 pp., 189 illustrations, paper \$14.95 ISBN 531-1, LC 86-6975 1986

American Gardens of the Nineteenth Century: “For Comfort and Affluence”

In fascinating detail, this third and final volume carries the story of American gardening up through the end of the nineteenth century. The book is divided into three sections. “Unfamiliar Territory” discusses the medicinal uses of plants, government-commissioned botanists and other explorers, seed developers and distributors, seed catalogs and instructional publications, the entrance of “ladies” into the gardening world, and the evolution of horticultural societies and shows.

“Laying on of Hands” profiles key horticultural figures such as David Hosack and André Parmentier, and reviews landscape theory and the design of large public gardens and parks.

“Domestic Comforts” looks at specific gardens such as the one at the Hermitage in Nashville, Tennessee, and at the Longfellow House in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the use of garden space and of embellishments (walkways, benches, Greek temples),

bedding out, suburban gardens, Canadian gardens, and specialty gardens such as herb and Japanese.

The book will be of particular importance to heritage conservationists and will also appeal to anyone interested in nineteenth-century North American history.

456 pp., 108 illustrations, cloth \$35.00(sd), paper \$14.95

ISBN 532-x(cloth), 533-8(paper), LC 86-11330 April 1987

Wood, Brick, and Stone: The North American Settlement Landscape

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—Sarah Ferrell, *New York Times Book Review*

"This is a set of books that no serious barn or old-house buff can afford to ignore." —Paul Gapp, *Chicago Tribune Book World*

Winner of National Gold Medal Award for Book Publishing from CASE, the Council for Advancement and Support of Education

Winner of 1985 Book Award in History from the Ohio Library Association

Selected for the AAUP Book Show

Selected for the New England Book Show

Professor of geography at the University of Akron, Noble is author of *Studies of the American Settlement Landscape*.

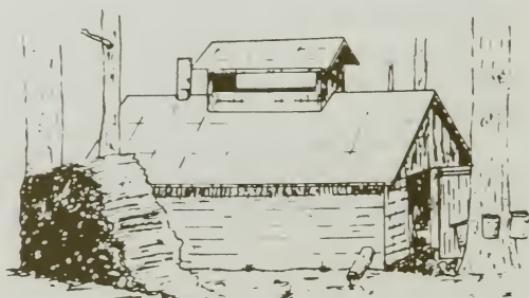
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1984 cloth, 1986 paper



British and European History

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"Hill has twice before collected his essays and addresses, but none of the thirty pieces in these two latest volumes appeared in those earlier collections. Most of them date from the past eight years, and nearly all those of an earlier origin have been more or less extensively rewritten. They are all a splendid testimony that their author's 'retirement' is really nothing of the kind."—Austin Woolrych,
(London) *Times Literary Supplement*

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"Hill is an acute reader and a cogent, witty writer. Here, as in his earlier work, when Christopher Hill talks about the 17th century, both historians and literary historians will find it worthwhile to listen."—*Choice*

"Everything Christopher Hill has to say about the literature or the politics of the seventeenth century is valuable. He spins off books for lesser scholars with every other sentence. In this collection of essays alone he has written the best essay I have read on censorship in the century, and the best on the religion and politics of Robinson Crusoe, and Samuel Pepys, and just about anyone else he chooses to write about."

—Roy Flannagan, *Milton Quarterly*

352 pp., cloth \$27.50(sd) ISBN 467-6, LC 84-16446 1985 USC

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Focusing on religious beliefs and practices, Volume 2 shows how the deep-rooted theological struggles of the seventeenth century led to the collapse of the united church. Hill emphasizes the significance of radical and heretical movements in English religious history in offering a new appraisal of the role of religious conflict as a shaping force of the English Revolution. He considers traditions from the Lollards to the Levellers and includes fully detailed studies of Gerrard Winstanley, radical antinomianism, and the origins of Muggletonianism.

368 pp., cloth \$27.50(sd) ISBN 503-6, LC 84-16446 1985 USC

Volume 3: People and Ideas in Seventeenth-Century England

"This is another vintage collection of Hill pieces. The remarkable breadth of Hill's interests and knowledge is, if anything, even more apparent here than in volumes one and two. The subjects covered include English politics in the early seventeenth century, New World piracy and the possible relationship to radical movements of the English Revolution, historical demography, seventeenth-century sexuality (of both homosexual and heterosexual varieties), science, magic, covenant theology and the British career of Karl Marx. One can think of few, if any, historians who would feel comfortable dealing with such an array of topics.

"There is, nonetheless, a consistent intellectual style uniting all these pieces. Taken together they admirably display Hill's central historiographical concerns. Sometimes, as in Part I, these are treated as subjects in their own right; more often they emerge in the course of a review of another scholar's work or an article dealing with historians' controversies. Hill's flexible and inventive brand of Marxism is explicitly propounded in chapter 5, in the course of a skillful and interesting attempt to breathe new life into Marx's classic interpretation of the English Civil War as the first great bourgeois revolution. . . . One of Hill's greatest merits, however, is his ability to provoke interesting arguments over any number of conventional and unconventional subjects. In this respect the present volume succeeds admirably."—Malcolm Smuts, University of Massachusetts, Boston

340 pp., cloth \$27.50(sd) ISBN 550-8, LC 84-16446 December 1986 USC

The Apprenticeship of Beatrice Webb

Deborah Epstein Nord

"Beatrice Webb (1858-1943) and her husband, Sidney, dominated the Fabian socialists (a group that included George Bernard Shaw, H. G. Wells, and Leonard Woolf), helped establish the London School of Economics, and did much to inform their fellow Victorians about the victims of the era's rabid capitalism. . . . By comparing her autobiography to those of other famous women and by setting her life in its social and historical context, the author offers up a brave woman who defied a society that did not allow women their successes or success its women."

—Helen Benedict, *New York Times Book Review*

Naming this an Outstanding Academic Book for 1985-86, *Choice* wrote: "[Nord's] study succeeds not only as biography but also upon a rare level of mastery of interdisciplinary skills and perception. A major contribution to history, literary criticism, and women's studies."

Nord teaches English literature at Harvard University.

320 pp., cloth \$25.00(sd) ISBN 427-7, LC 83-18235 1985 USC



Labour and Socialism: A History of the British Labour Movement, 1867–1974

James Hinton

“This tightly written and provocative essay . . . is likely to replace its predecessors as a general introductory text.”—Ben Pimlott, (London) *Times Literary Supplement*

“Anyone who had read Hinton’s *Labour and Socialism* would not have been surprised by Margaret Thatcher’s sweep in the last British election. Hinton, a British labor historian, sees it in the making for years, as ‘the underlying partnership between a trade unionism devoted to the protection of workers’ interests on the job and a Labour Party seeking to promote the wider social needs of working people [increasingly] showed signs of terminal crisis.’ . . . Today, with socialists focusing more and more on job concerns of women, teenagers, and minorities, and on environmental and peace problems—none of which rank high on the unresolved problems list of the trade unions—Hinton sees little hope for patching up the partnership. What will take its place he is not brave or foolhardy enough to predict. A careful, thoughtful study.”—*Choice*

Lecturer in history at Warwick, Hinton is author of *The First Shop Stewards’ Movement and Trade Unions and Revolution*.

224 pp., cloth \$22.00(sd) ISBN 393-9, LC 82-21798 1983 OBEC

Mother Death: The Journal of Jules Michelet, 1815–1850

Translated and edited by Edward Kaplan

“Kaplan provides the first English translation of a selection from Michelet’s voluminous private diaries and other autobiographical writings, with an introduction, commentary, and notes. The selection focuses on Michelet’s experience of and reaction to the deaths of those closest to him. It makes fascinating reading and is, by any standards, an extraordinary human document. For the historian, it is of special interest for two main reasons. It raises explicitly, painfully, the issue of the historian’s personal motivation and its effects on what he or she studies and writes and how. . . . Secondly, the diary gives an unusual insight into nineteenth-century attitudes toward death and the dead.”—Stephen Wilson, *History*

“An excellent translation doing justice to Michelet’s poetic prose, which interprets the original and makes it readily accessible to the reader. . . . We grasp the evolution of the historian so vividly, that we recommend Kaplan’s edition to anyone wishing to read Michelet’s *Journal*.”—Oscar A. Haac, *Nineteenth-Century French Studies*

Associate professor of French at Brandeis, Kaplan has edited two of Michelet’s books on nature, *L’Oiseau* and *L’Insecte*.

248 pp., cloth \$20.00(sd) ISBN 432-3, LC 83-18068 1984

French Connections: Voices from the Women's Movement in France

Edited and translated by Claire Duchen

Although the women's liberation movement is very much an international phenomenon, it has developed very differently in different countries. Debate and exchange between feminists is often difficult, not only because of language barriers, but also because things do not always make sense when removed from their particular social, political, and cultural contexts.

The feminist movement in France has been too often regarded as interesting but largely irrelevant, concerned more with reflection and theory than with seeking practical solutions to concrete problems. In this anthology, Claire Duchen attempts to change that image, demonstrating that although the French movement is indeed characterized by much intellectual debate, it shares the same concerns and struggles of feminists everywhere.

The first part of the volume contains selections on the French Women's Liberation Movement (*mouvement de libération des femmes*, known as the MLF) itself, reflecting on its history, character, and prospects for the future. The second part contains selections on four areas of debate that have both theoretical and practical dimensions: psychoanalytic feminism, heterosexuality and lesbianism, women's "difference," and the relationship between feminism and the political Left.

The book contains fifteen contributions from eight important writers: Françoise Collin, Christine Delphy, Catherine Deudon, Marie-Jo Dhavernas, Colette Guillaumin, Annie Leclerc, Françoise Picq, and Eliane Viennot.

Duchen is a lecturer in French at Oxford Polytechnic in Great Britain and author of *Feminism in France: From May '68 to Mitterrand*.

160 pp., cloth \$20.00(sd), paper \$8.95(sd)

ISBN 547-8(cloth), 548-6(paper), LC 86-11347 April 1987 USC

Women, State, and Revolution: Essays on Power and Gender in Europe Since 1789

Edited by Sian Reynolds

Informed by modern feminist scholarship, this book makes an important contribution to our understanding of the historical role of women in European politics. It focuses on women and state or revolutionary power during the last two centuries in France, Germany, Russia, and Great Britain and on the work of such leading figures as Mary Wollstonecraft and Alexandra Kollontai. The contributors discuss the relationship between women and revolution and explore the realities of women's rights as citizens, whether achieved during or outside of revolutionary periods. Two illuminating studies of the visual arts and contemporary media explore the depiction of women as both mystical inspiration (Liberty on the barricades) or disruptive deviant (terrorist or peace activist).

"The collection of readings is most promising for both scholarly and classroom use, with a solid, albeit selective, up-to-date bibliography for those eager to pursue specific topics further. The introduction illuminates clearly and thoroughly the

significance of the volume's field of inquiry for anyone interested in modern European history. . . . Very few collections of historical studies on European women in comparative national perspective are available. This volume is most welcome to those of us trying to decipher the ways in which gender structures European historical experience."—Joyce Berkman, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

The contributors are Irene Coltman Brown, Ulrike Hanna Meinhof, Sybil Oldfield, Michelle Perrot, Marcia Pointon, Sian Reynolds, Anne Stevens, and Beryl Williams.

Reynolds is a lecturer in French in the School of European Studies, University of Sussex. She is translator of a number of books by French historians, including Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie's *Territory of the Historian* and Fernand Braudel's *The Mediterranean and Civilization and Capitalism*.

192 pp., illustrated, cloth \$25.00(sd), paper \$9.95(sd)

ISBN 552-4(cloth), 553-2(paper), LC 86-16074 November 1986 USC

Women and European Politics: Contemporary Feminism and Public Policy

Joni Lovenduski

Women and European Politics is a comprehensive country-by-country survey of the changing political and economic history of women in Eastern and Western Europe over the last two centuries. Joni Lovenduski begins with a discussion of the contributions of the "first wave" feminists who fought for woman suffrage as well as for reforms in family life, wage work, and educational opportunities. "Second wave" feminists, whom she claims were more economically independent, were concerned primarily with women's political activism, reproductive rights, child-care provision for wage-earning women, laws against rape and sexual harassment, and consciousness-raising about women's oppression. Throughout her consideration of these issues, Lovenduski remains keenly aware of the unique situation for the women in each country discussed, as well as the divisions created among women due to differing social class and ethnic background. She is also skeptical of official press reports and accounts of women's political activity and aware of the interplay between ideology and social and political practice.

"A very welcome addition to the literature in comparative politics and women's studies. Lovenduski has read widely and carefully into the extant literature, and has produced a comprehensive survey of the changing position of European women in the political arena. The book is unusual in its genre for attempting an historical perspective on this matter. . . . exceptionally intelligent and comprehensive."

—Joan B. Landes, Hampshire College

Senior lecturer in politics at the Department of European Studies of Loughborough University, Lovenduski is co-editor of *The Politics of the Second Electorate*.

336 pp., cloth \$27.50(sd), paper \$10.95(sd) ISBN 507-9(cloth), 508-7(paper)
LC 85-16501 1986 USC

Dilemmas of Italian Socialism: The Politics of Filippo Turati

Spencer DiScala

"This conscientiously researched and well-written . . . book begins with the founding of the Italian Socialist Party (PSI) in 1892, in which Turati played a crucial role, and ends in 1912. . . . DiScala deals with the relations between the Socialist Party's directorate and the Party's representatives in Parliament; the unresolved conflicts between the reformist and revolutionary wings of the Party; the responses of the Party's leadership to government repression and its efforts to defend democratic rights; and the new problems facing the PSI after the turn of the century. . . . An important book."—Frank Rosengarten, *Science and Society*

"An essential contribution to the understanding of this man and his work."

—John M. Cammett, *Journal of Modern History*

DiScala "is an impassioned and thoroughly informed Italian specialist. . . . Editor of the *Italian Quarterly* between 1974–78, DiScala demonstrates a profound understanding of the Italian scene and social climate."—Giovanni Spadolini, former prime minister of Italy, (*La Stampa*) *Tutti Libri*

DiScala teaches history at the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

224 pp., cloth \$17.50(sd) ISBN 285-1, LC 79-10274 1980

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Hans Speier

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"These accounts offer insight into German postwar conditions of survival and reconstruction, the relations between Germans and Americans, and especially the attitude of select members of the German aristocracy, military, and intelligentsia toward rearmament."—*Choice*

Speier, one of the original members of the University in Exile, is author of numerous books, including *Social Order and the Risks of War* and *Divided Berlin*.

336 pp., cloth \$20.00(sd), paper \$10.95 ISBN 135-9(cloth), 491-9(paper)
LC 80-21599 1981 cloth, 1985 paper

Long Live the Strong:

A History of Rural Society in the Apennine Mountains

Roland Sarti

Naming this an Outstanding Academic Book for 1985–86, *Choice* wrote: "Outstanding works of history are often ones that move successfully from the particular to the general. Sarti's study is a case in point. In tracing the development of

one mountain village near Lucca, the author has written a history not only of rural society in the Apennines, but of Italy generally. . . . One very remarkable aspect of this work is how fully it deals with peasant life: not only are war and politics considered, but also such topics as sexual customs, religiosity and anticlericalism, emigration, and peasant poetry. Sarti has also made wide use of unpublished sources to create this fresh picture of Italian society. . . . a first-rate general work on Italian history."

"Sarti has put it all together . . . in a way few others have managed. The historical scope is awesome as he traces relations with larger societies, from the Ligurian resistance to the Etruscans and then the Romans, through the myriad church-state struggles of the Middle Ages, to the welter of duchies and principalities as French, British, Austrian, and protonationalist armies passed the region back and forth, through the seesaw of national unification, and finally on to the Fascist capture of the state. Even more impressive, though, is the author's facility in moving between political and economic changes at the national, regional, and village levels and the attitudes, beliefs, and survival strategies of individuals and families.

"We learn about changing agricultural practices and the competition between collective and private regimes of land tenure, and we learn about who is migrating and why; but we also learn about the organization and behavior of emigrants during their absence from the village and from the region. Old men's stories, songs collected at different times, the architectural history of public buildings, peasant proverbs, and individual biography are seamlessly interwoven with population and agricultural census data, travelers' accounts, local historians' trenchant observations, church records, political and ceremonial speeches, a synopsis of a locally popular play, and the author's incisive observations about theories of peasant society."

—*Contemporary Sociology*

"A superb achievement, beautifully, elegantly, extraordinarily well written."
—Joseph Lopreato, University of Texas, Austin

Professor of history at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Roland Sarti is author of *Fascism and the Industrial Leadership in Italy* and *The Ax Within: Italian Fascism in Action*.

296 pp., illustrations, cloth \$27.00(sd) ISBN 466-8, LC 84-16347 1985





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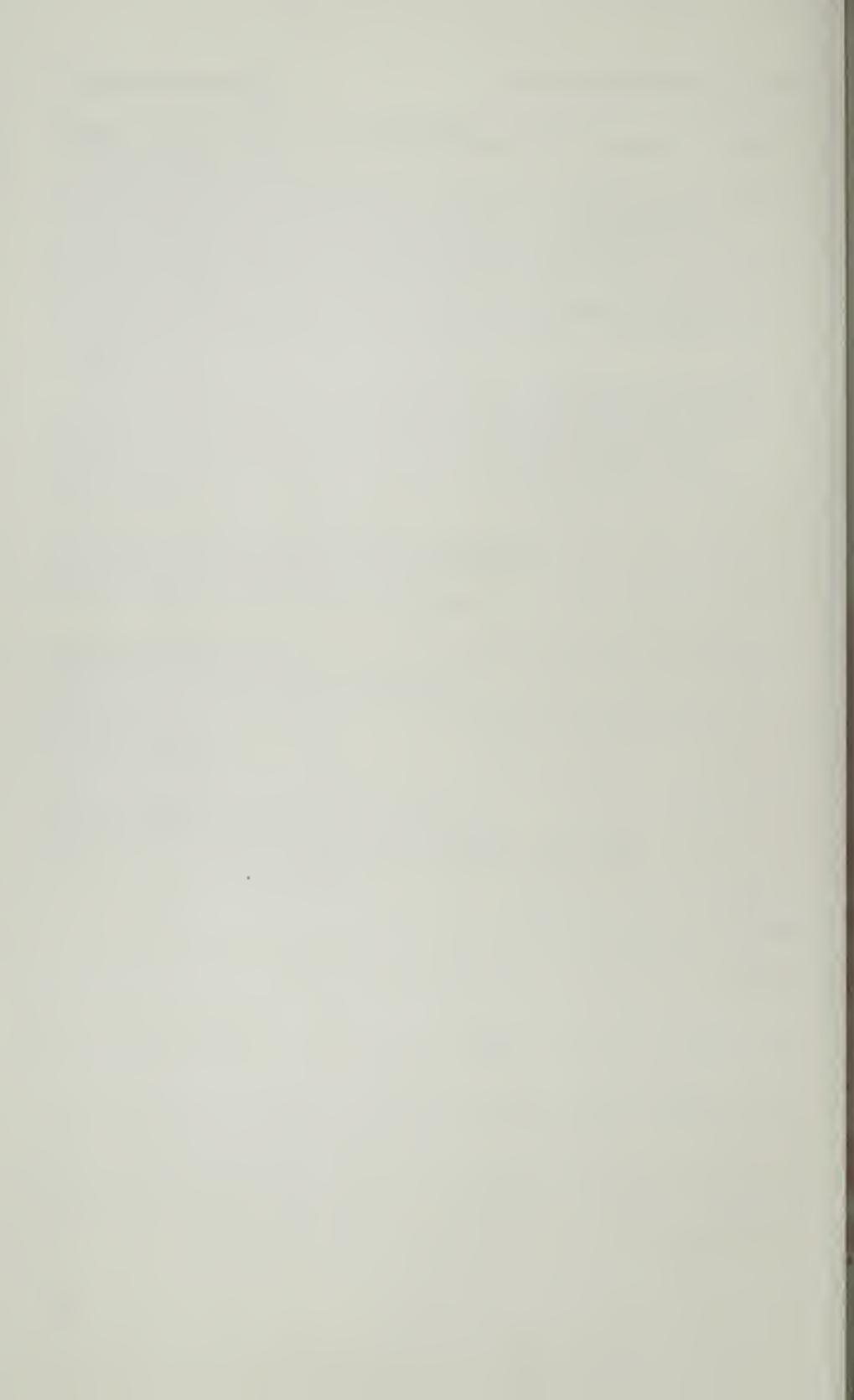
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